

# ANNUAL REPORT.

upon the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

for the year ending 31st. December 1948.



## STATISTICS.

1. Area. 39,619
2. Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population 1948 (Mid Year) - 4,904
3. Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books. - 1,792.
4. Rateable Value - £24,423.
5. Sum represented by a penny rate - £105.2.2d.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	
<u>Live Births.</u> (Legitimate)	66	29	37	} Birth Rate 15.2 per 1000 of estimated resident population.
(Illegitimate)	9	4	5	
<u>Still Births.</u>	4	3	1	
<u>Deaths.</u>	61	28	33	} Death Rate 12.4 per 1000 of estimated resident population.

England & Wales: Birth Rate 17.9 per 1000. Death Rate 10.8 per 1000  
Deaths from Puerperal Causes - 1.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age. Total 1.  
All Infants per 1000 live births - 13.3.  
Legitimate Infants per 1000 leg. live births - 15.1  
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illeg. live births - Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (All Ages) .....10  
Deaths from Measles (All Ages) .....Nil  
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All Ages) .....Nil.  
Deaths from Diarrhoea. (under 2 yrs) .....Nil.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

### (a) MEDICAL.

D.T. McDonald M.D. Ch.B. (Edin) South Bank, Belford.

(i) Medical Officer of Health (part-time) (ii) Medical Officer Belford Institution (part-time) (iii) District Medical Officer & Public Vaccinator for Belford West District (part-time).  
(iii) ceased at 5th. July 1948 on the inception of the National Health Service Act.

F.B. Macaskie L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin) L.R.C.P.S. (Glas) 'Malabar', Seahouses. - District Medical Officer & Public Vaccinator for Belford East District - ceased at 5th. July 1948 on the inception of the National Health Service Act.

### (b) OTHERS.

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor & Building Surveyor. - W.R.KIRK, M.S.I.A.  
Seabank, Seahouses.

Engineer & Surveyor in charge of Water & Sewerage Undertakings & Town & Country Planning - T.C. Arrandale, M.I. Mun.E., M.R.S.I.,  
Home Farm, Belford.

Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths.

Vaccination Officer (ceased 5th. July 1948) - MRS.M.A.C. Thompson,  
Horsley House, North Sunderland, Seahouses.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

With the coming into operation of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, the duties of the Engineer and Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector have been re-allocated and the Engineer & Surveyor is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Council's Water Undertaking, the supervision of Sewage Systems and Sewage Disposal Works and work in connection with the Town Planning.

The County Council's approval to the proposed District Water Scheme was received in March and the Council has engaged Messrs Waterhouse & Rounthwaite to prepare the complete Scheme for submission to the Ministry of Health. The Consulting Engineers were instructed to give priority to the provision of a new water supply for the Belford area.

Agreement in principle for the purchase of the Bamburgh Water Undertaking has been reached with Lord Armstrong's Agent.

The existing supplies in Belford have been improved by the renewal of 150 lin.yds. of 4" water main and the scraping of 280 lin.yds. of 4" pipes and 800 lin.yds. of 2" pipes in the village, and also by other incidental works and additional maintenance.

Samples of water have been taken for both chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations from the following sources of the Belford supply viz:- Red Spring, West Spring, North Spring, Old Hospital Supply Spring and the Grass Field Spring and the reports state that the water from all of these sources is suitable for drinking and domestic use.

As the Seahouses Reservoir had been leaking badly for some years, the Council accepted a tender for re-lining with Bitumen and they have also decided to have the Seahouses Pumping Plant, which is in a unsatisfactory condition, overhauled as soon as practicable in order to maintain supplies in the Seahouses area during the holiday season.

Samples taken from private sources of supply were found in three cases to be contaminated. In each case work done to exclude penetration of surface water proved satisfactory.

Water is supplied from public mains to houses in the following Parishes:-

<u>PARISH.</u>	<u>Piped into house.</u>	<u>By standpipe.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
North Sunderland.	357	78	435
Belford.	193	7	200
Beadnoll.	124	19	143
Chathill.	5	11	16
Ellingham.	15	9	24
Fleetham.	7	5	12
Swinhoe.	4	14	18
<u>TOTALS.</u>	<u>757</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>900</u>

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Alterations have been carried out at the Belford Sewage Disposal Works to facilitate their operation and to improve the effluent but additional alterations will be necessary to improve their efficiency.

The Bamburgh Sewerage System has been taken over by the Council and a Sewerman has been engaged to attend to this and to the maintenance of other Sewerage systems in the District.

The laying of a new sewer and the construction of a septic tank has been carried out at Ellingham to deal with the sewage from the Council's houses, the Hostel and other premises in the village which had previously been discharging crude sewage into an open water course.

A defective main sewer at High Pump, North Sunderland, has been re-laid to overcome repeated blockages and flooding of the highway.



## MEAT & OTHER FOODS.

### SHOPS ETC.

There are in the District:-

- 7 Bakeries with shops attached.
- 7 Butcher's shops.
- 17 Grocers and General Dealers.
- 4 Greengrocers.
- 1 Fishmonger. Shop.
- 3 Fishmongers operating vans.
- 7 Confectioners.

### CAFES, HOTELS,

### BOARDING HOUSES.

- 4 Cafes.
- 14 Hotels (Residential & Private)
- 6 Boarding Houses (5 or more beds)

There are also 4 Manufacturers of ice cream, three use heat-treatment method, and one cold mix.

These premises have been regularly inspected and the following items of food have been condemned.

- 16½ stone of Imported Beef - Bone taint.
- 4 tins Canned Goods - Tins blown.
- 10½lbs. Bacon - Imperfectly cured.
- 15½lbs. Cheese - Mildewed.
- 24lbs. Jam - Damaged by flood water.
- 56lbs. Tapioca " "
- 135lbs. Biscuits. " "

No slaughtering is carried on in the District except in emergency and the slaughter of pigs for individual owners.

No emergency slaughtering has been reported during the year.

## HOUSING.

### New Houses completed during the year.

By Local Authority ... 52 (Permanent)  
By Private Enterprise ... Nil.

### Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ....28

### Summary of Work effected during the Year.

Privies abolished	41
Privy Ashpits abolished	24
Water Closets provided	43

### Sanitary Conveniences.

Water Closets repaired	5
Sanitary Bins provided	34
Sanitary Bins renewed	26

### Drainage.

New Drains constructed	28
Drains repaired or reconstructed	6
Additional gullies provided	14
Old gullies replaced	5
Scullery sinks provided	17
Yards repaired or reconstructed	4

### Water Supply.

How services provided	5
No. of houses affected.	6

Action under Statutory Powers....NIL.

### HOUSING SURVEY.

During the year 382 houses been inspected and classified on the following standards.

- Class 1. Houses in all respects fit.
- Class 2. To standard save for minor repairs and/or provision of bathroom, H.&C. Supply.
- Class 3. Below standard in facilities and/or requiring major repair.
- Class 4. Worthy of reconditioning.
- Class 5. Should be condemned.

<u>Class.</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>
1.	124
2.	70
3.	28
4.	108
5.	52

### PLANS Approved during the year include:-

Alterations to Farm Cottage, East Burton - A.Humphreys.  
Addition of scullery, bathroom, W.C., 36 Beadnell - Mrs. J.Dixon.  
Addition of bedroom, W.C., Cragside, Belford - J.C.Hardy.  
Chandler's Store, Fish Quay, Seahouses - L.Douglas.  
Boat Builder's Workshop, Seahouses - Dawson & Beverly.  
Additions to Dunstan View, Seahouses - K.Glover.  
Conversion of 4 cottages to 2, Lucker - Duke of Northumberland.  
Dental Surgery, Southfield House, Seahouses - W.Atkinson.  
Fisherman's Store, Seahouses - R.Rutter.  
Alterations to Blue Bell Hotel, Belford - Hetherington & Wilson.  
Cowbyre at Blue Bell Hotel, Belford - Hetherington & Wilson.  
Conversion of Middleton School to house - Greenwich Hospital Estate.  
Cowshed at Sionside - J.B.Cross.  
2 cottages at Tughall Grange - K.Glover.  
Alterations & Additions to 2 cottages at Swinhoë - Hogg & Outtersen.  
Alterations to Butcher's Shop, Belford - J.Mole.  
Alterations to 4 cottages, Warenmill, - Gray & Paterson.  
Alterations to 4 cottages, Adderstone Low Mill - R.B.Harvey.  
Alterations to 6 cottages, Easington Domesne - S.Brewis.  
Dairy at Newham Village - C.Appleby.  
Provision of scullery, Main Street, Seahouses - Mrs. Ross.  
Alterations to Bakery, Main Street, Seahouses - Seahouses Co-op Soc.  
Alterations to 8 cottages, Elford - J.Robinson & Son.  
2 semi-detached bungalows, Seahouses - T.B.Gregory & Sons.  
Alterations to Shop, Main Street, Seahouses - F.Coxon & Son.  
Alterations to Bungalow, St. Aidans, Seahouses - E.J.Levy.  
Wash-house, Petite Maison, Seahouses - L.Grant.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS  
& OTHER DISEASE DURING 1948.

During the year 117 cases of infectious disease were notified.

Whooping Cough	- 55	Pneumonia	- 43
Measles	- 23	Erysipilus	- 2
Chickenpox	- 17	Paratyphoid Fever 'B'	- 1
Tuberculosis	- 9	Puerperal Pyrexia	- 1
Scarlet Fever	- 6		

Whooping Cough was the most prevalent infectious disease in the Rural District during the year. It appeared in mild epidemic form in Seahouses and District in June, and again in September and October in the Lucker and Newham areas and at the end of year there were a few cases in Belford.

Measles occurred sporadically throughout the District during the year, and in December there were a few cases in the Seahouses, Beadnell and Swinhoe areas but not amounting to an epidemic.

The cases of Scarlet Fever occurred sporadically throughout the year, four of them being in the Belford area.

The case of Paratyphoid Fever 'B' occurred in Belford. He is a man whose sister-in-law is a carrier of the disease and who had been residing in the same house. He was admitted to Berwick Isolation Hospital where he made a total recovery. The carrier of the disease now lives in her own house in Belford and is kept under continuous supervision. There has been no further spread of the disease.

